



NEWS RELEASE

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Record Housing Funding For Kansas Announced By USDA Rural Development

Nearly \$100 Million In Funding Provided During Fiscal Year 2006

Junction City, KS – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks announced today that the Agency approved a record \$99.7 million in funding assistance for Kansans and their communities for homeownership financing and housing assistance during Fiscal Year 2006 through the Agency's rural housing programs. Today's announcement was made during the Agency's recognition of a Junction City military family who recently received a USDA Rural Development guaranteed single-family homeownership loan to help purchase their new home.

During the ceremony, State Director Banks commented, "The Agency is pleased to provide this record level of housing assistance for Kansas. Whether it's guaranteeing a homeownership loan in the Fort Riley area, helping with needed home repairs in Rice County or providing rental housing assistance in Liberal, USDA helps thousands of Kansans each year improve their quality of life along with helping communities expand their local economic development opportunities. This is important funding assistance to help all of Kansas."

U.S. Senator Pat Roberts, commenting today on the record funding announcement, remarked, "I want to congratulate the hardworking folks at Kansas' USDA Rural Development office for another record breaking year. They are once again making a tangible difference in the community and in the daily lives of Kansans. It is clear to me that this kind of proactive community outreach, planning and vision is part of what makes Kansas a great place to call home."

USDA Rural Development's rural housing programs include the *Guaranteed Single-Family Loan Program*, which guaranteed a record 800 loans totaling over \$56.4 million in Kansas during FY2006. The Agency, through its *Direct Single-Family Loan Program*, also originated over \$21.2 million in loans for Kansans during FY2006. Additional funding assistance was provided through the Agency's *Single-Family Repair Loan & Grant Program*, *Mutual Self-Help Housing Program*, *Rural Housing Site Loan Program*, *Multi-Family Housing Loan Program* and *Rental Assistance Program*, and *Housing Preservation Grant Program*.

State Director Banks also thanked the many USDA partners who assisted the Agency in recording the record housing funding year. Those Kansas partners include USDA-approved lenders, community leaders, non-profit organizations, and also the commanders at Fort Riley through their cooperation under the USDA – Fort Riley Regional Initiative.

Since 2001, USDA Rural Development has invested over \$457.4 million in funding to expand homeownership opportunities and support rental housing facilities across Kansas. This Agency funding has benefited over 35,000 Kansans during this period.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunity and improving the quality of life of the State's rural residents. For additional information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, interested parties may call the Agency's state headquarters at 785-271-2700 or log onto the Kansas USDA Rural Development website at: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

USDA Rural Development – *Committed to the Future of Rural Communities.*

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